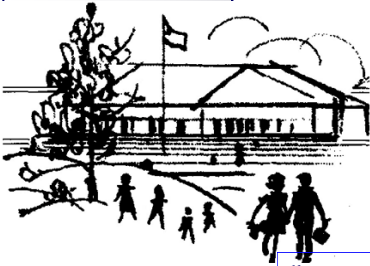


Dec. 2014



Graham County School News



Graham County School Superintendent

Donna M. McGaughey

Volume 10, Issue 12

"Providing Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"

Please visit our website

www.graham.az.gov

Superintendent's Message

Yes, it really is December. Hopefully all of you were able to enjoy a peaceful Thanksgiving holiday with your loved ones. Our community crafters, vendors and businesses were out in force providing wonderful opportunities to shop local and support some great causes. I bet some of you were even involved with the madness called "Black Friday."

The food drive challenge sponsored by McMurray Communications and several other businesses was another huge success! Congratulations students! You always come through.

Have a wonderful month full music, sports and other activities supporting our students. Merry Christmas!

Contact us:

Donna McGaughey
Superintendent

921 Thatcher Blvd.

Safford, AZ 85546

928-428-2880

Fax: 928-428-8824

dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov

Jill Davis, Chief Deputy
jdavis@graham.az.gov

Polly Merriman, Deputy
pmerriman@graham.az.gov

Paulette LeBlanc, Education
Service Agency Coordinator
pleblanc@aznexus.net

Online Registration:
www.graham.az.gov

Click on:
School Superintendent,
workshops

The Graham County School
Office is a member of the East
Central Regional Service
Center—ECRSC—which
includes Gila, Greenlee and
Pinal counties.

*Our Goal: Provide regionally-
based service, support and
technical assistance, in
collaboration with the Arizona
Dept. of Ed. and the
Governor's Office of
Education Innovation.*

Dates to remember:

Dec. 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 9—School district business managers meeting

Dec. 10-12—Arizona School Boards Association Annual
Conference in Phoenix

Dec. 25—Merry Christmas

Dec. 31—Happy New Year's Eve!

Save the Dates:

Jan. 26—G/G Superintendents meeting

Jan. 27—G/G Administrators training

Feb. 4—Graham County Spelling Bee

Feb. 11—Economics for K-5 teachers

Feb. 26-28—Gila Valley Health, Safety and Science Festival

June 1-4—Southeast Arizona Teachers' Academy (SEATA)

The Graham County General Services Building is open Monday—
Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and is closed on Fridays.



It's Time to Plan for The 2015 Spelling Bee!



Timeline

- Graham County schools should submit their winners to the County School Office by January 28, 2015.
- The Graham County Spelling Bee will be held Wednesday February 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Graham County General Services Building.
- The winner of the Graham County Spelling Bee will compete at the Arizona Spelling Bee on Saturday March 21, 2015 at the Eight/Arizona PBS Studios.
- The Arizona winner will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in late May 2015.

To learn more about the Arizona Spelling Bee, please visit
<http://azedfoundation.org/programs/arizona-spelling-bee/>

Commonly misspelled words

absence * accommodate * affect * advise * auxiliary * beneficial * belief * biscuit * chief *
cemetery * chose * commitment * colonel * conscious * conscience * conscientious * develop
* definitely * effect * eighth * embarrass * especially * exaggerate * February * foreign * forty *
fourth * gauge * guarantee * height * hygiene * ignorance * idiosyncrasy * indicted * interrupt
* irrelevant * leisure * lieutenant * license * loose/lose * maintenance * minuscule *
miscellaneous * mischievous * neutron * ninth * nuisance * occurrence * orchestra *
peaceable * peculiar * perseverance * potato * potatoes * psychology * receipt *
reminiscence * reservoir * rheumatism * sacrifice * scenery * secede * secretary * seize *
sergeant * siege * souvenir * specifically * spontaneous * supersede * suspicious * thorough
* though * through * tournament * twelfth * usually * vacuum * whether * weather * wholly *
withdrawal * woman * women * worthwhile * yacht

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION FOR ALL CHILDREN SUMMIT

Road to Transition

This summit will provide opportunity for Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices (ECQUIP) Teams to:

- Learn the current research regarding kindergarten transition.
- Hear from a local community that has been successful with implementing kindergarten transition.
- Design effective strategies and implementation plan with your ECQUIP team.

Location

Desert Willow Conference Center

4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85040

Register at:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/online/registration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall=yes&GroupID=31>

“During this period behavior is shaped and attitudes are formed that will influence children throughout their education.”

“...One step in the right direction is collaboration between preschool and elementary school educators.”

“...have parents understand what experiences can help their child have a successful transition.”

Cost

\$52 per person

Recommended ECQUIP Team Members

- ⇒ Head Start
- ⇒ Community Childcare
- ⇒ Families
- ⇒ Business Partners
- ⇒ First Things First Staff
- ⇒ Title I Preschool
- ⇒ Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Teachers
- ⇒ Local Childcare Partners



Like All Skills, Gratitude is Best Learned Young

Submitted by Paulette LeBlanc

First Things First Community Outreach Coordinator

As the holiday season approaches, it is the perfect time to teach young children a very important life lesson: gratitude.

Barbara Lewis, author of *What Do You Stand For? For Kids*, teaches us children as young as two are aware that other people do things for them or give them things that make them happy. As children grow, this awareness turns into an understanding of higher concepts, such as kindness and caring. As they mature further, they will learn to empathize and appreciate the feelings of others – crucial skills for all adults.

So, how do we teach our children to be grateful? Here are some tips from First Things First, gathered from child development experts and websites:

Teach children to say thank you to everyone who does something for them – their server at a restaurant, the older sibling who helps them pick up toys, or the friend who buys them a birthday gift.

Talk about the things you are grateful for. This can be everything from a blessing before dinner to reciting evening prayers.

Involve kids in chores at home. Nothing makes children appreciate the time and effort that goes in to different activities like doing the work themselves.

Support a charitable event or organization. Whether you are donating old clothes or toys, participating in a food drive, or even baking cookies for a new neighbor, talk to children about what those actions means to those who receive the kindness.

Say no. It's hard to teach gratitude to someone who gets everything they want.

Be consistent. Like all skills, gratitude is not learned in one lesson.

The first five years offer the opportunity for children to develop the skills they need to be successful students and successful adults. Research shows that thankful people are usually more optimistic and are less depressed and stressed. So, when we teach our children to appreciate what they have – and what others do for them – we are helping them to become happier, healthier adults.

First Things First partners with parents and communities to help all kids start school healthy and ready to succeed. To find out more about what First Things First does for our community, visit azftf.gov.



Visit www.readonarizona.org to learn more about the importance of early literacy skills. You can learn how to obtain the *Early Literacy Guide for Families* which contains information on how to assist the young children in your home. The guide is for any parent or caregiver of an Arizona child age birth through third grade.

It explains:

- The importance of early literacy and how you can help your child develop reading skills.
- Why third grade is an important milestone and what Arizona law says about reading requirements for third grade students.

Did you know?

- 3rd grade reading levels are strong predictors of ninth grade course performance, high school graduation, college attendance
- Language matters—preschoolers whose parents read to them, tell stories, and sing songs tend to develop larger vocabularies, become better readers, and perform better in school. Children develop important language skills from birth—and early language abilities are directly related to later reading abilities.

myON: A Digital Library for Every Child in Arizona

This is an innovative reading solution to keep kids reading. Trial access to a library of thousands of enhanced digital books on computers, tablets and other devices. Books are available online anytime, anywhere a student has access to an internet connection. The free trial access runs through December 19, 2014.

It takes only a few simple steps to access myON books:

1. Go online to: www.myon.com
2. Click the Log In Now button and enter the following information:
 - School Name: Read On Arizona, Digital Library (Note: Begin entering the first few letters of “Read On” and then select “Read On Arizona, Digital Library” from the drop-down menu. For this trial, you are not to enter your individual school name.)
 - User name: read Password: read
3. Click on Sign In, select a book and start reading!



New & Noteworthy

Webinar: Bring Lessons to Life with Primary Sources 12/2/14 @ 6:00 p.m.

Join PBS and experts from the Library of Congress for a look inside PBS LearningMedia's primary source collection filled with digital photos, presidential letters, speeches, and more!

Professional Development

PD for Digital Classrooms: Looking to bring your classroom into the digital age? These 1.5-hour online courses will help get you started on the right foot:

[Blended Learning and Flipped Classroom 101](#)

Grades K-12 / 1.5 Hours

[Promoting Digital Literacy and Citizenship](#)

Grades K-12 / 1.5 Hours

[Approaching to Digital Assessment in Your Classroom](#)



Grades K-12 / 1.5 Hours

<http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/catalog/courses/TECH1211/>

[Digital Storytelling: Online Tools for Sharing Student Voices](#)

Grades K-12 / 1.5 Hours

<http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/catalog/sections/TECH1221.4/>

Digital Resources

Enhance classroom conversation, homework assignments, and flipped lessons with these creative, Halloween-inspired resources:

[The Zombie Autopsies for Educators](#)

Grades 8-13+ / Collection / Science

Make science class a little spookier this year with four ghoulish lessons designed to introduce students to neurobiology and the inner workings of the brain.

<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/pbs-newshour-presents-neuroscience-and-zombies>

[Supernatural Elements in Shakespeare](#)

Grades 8-12 / Media Gallery / Literature

Ghosts, witches, and magic play an important role in some of Shakespeare's most notable works. Do you know which ones? Find out here!

<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/shak13.ela.lit.super/supernatural-elements-in-william-shakespeare/>

Productivity Tools for Teachers

The Lesson Builder, Quiz Maker, and Storyboard tools make it easy to personalize learning.

New: PBSstudents.org

K-12 students now have a dedicated place to access trusted content + homework support.

Featuring Trusted Educational Media Producers—check them out!



Pbslearningmedia.org



SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY



808 S. Seventh Ave.
Safford, AZ 85546
(928) 432-4165

The Safford City / Graham County Library offers services beyond checking out books. The Graham County School Superintendent has partnered with the library to offer homework help for students from kindergarten through college. **It's free to Graham County students.** Visit the library's homepage at www.cityofsafford.us and click on the *Homework Help* icon. This will lead you to the icon for **Tutor.com**. "Check out" this free tool and get help on any subject.

Citizens looking for help with finding a job should take advantage of the services offered by Job Skills Instructor, Kevin Hansen. Mr. Hansen offers help in finding jobs and preparing resumes. Additionally, he will help coach job seekers as they practice their interview skills. This is a great service!

The library has partnered with *First Things First* to enhance literacy skills in our youngest population. In addition to story time, parents can bring their children to the Brain Box sessions and other preschool activities scheduled throughout the year. The library has secured a grant from First Things First to fund the Imagination Library Book Club. Children ages birth through five can be signed up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. These are just a few of the wonderful things families can explore due to the partnerships formed by the library.

Visit the Safford City / Graham County Library in person or online!



The Safford City—Graham County Library has partnered with the Arizona State Library to bring a fabulous FREE database of eBooks to our students!

Visit www.saffordlibrary.org

On the left side of the screen, click on "TumbleBooks / eBooks for Kids

"Check out" the titles, which now include non-fiction!

The books are indexed by reading levels, grade, and lexile.

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity—it's free!

Visit the Gift Shop!

Safford City / Graham County Library

808 S. Seventh Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546 928-432-4165

Hours: Mon.—Thursday 10:00 a.m. —7:00 p.m. Closed Friday—Sunday



EASTERN ARIZONA SCIENCE INITIATIVE

2015 Eastern Arizona Regional Science Fair Competition

Hosted by The EAC Discovery Park Campus

**2015
EASTERN ARIZONA
REGIONAL
Science Fair
Competition**

**The Overall Winners
in Each Grade level
will receive:**



**Nextbook 8" Tablet with 8GB Memory
Quad Core:**

- 8" touchscreen, 1024 x 768 resolution
- The Android 4.2 Jelly Bean tablet has built-in 802.11b/g/n WiFi
- Back 2MP webcam and front 0.3MP webcam
- miniHDMI port
- Email, Alarm, Photo Viewer, Google Maps, YouTube, Nook
- Ebook Store, Vudu, Flixster, Cloudlink
- Web browser and Google Play

- The Regional Science Fair is open to all Eastern Arizona (Graham & Greenlee Counties) School Districts and Charter Schools.
- There are three levels of Participation: 5th & 6th Grade, 7th & 8th Grade, and open High School and three categories in each level: Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science.
- Anticipating that all projects will be judged by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Employees, and Society of Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) Members.
- 1st & 2nd Place winners will receive Trophies, Place Ribbons, and Certificate of Participation.
- 3rd Place and Honorable Mention winners will receive Place Ribbons and Certificate of Participation.

***Plus, all 1st Place winners will receive a Full-Tuition Scholarship to the
2015 EASI SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP OR H. S. FORENSICS CAMP***

Hosted by Discovery Park Campus and Eastern Arizona College

***Project Displays must be delivered to the
EAC Discovery Park Campus – Ranch House by Thursday, March 5th.***

Public Viewing:

Thursday, March 5th, 2014 8:00AM – 4:00PM

Friday, March 6th, 2014 1:00PM – 5:00PM

Saturday, March 7th, 2014 3:00PM – 7:00PM

Awards Ceremony –

5:00pm Saturday, March 7th in the DPC Ranch House

EAC Discovery Park Campus
Saturday Evening Lecture series
2014- 2015 Schedule

December 13, 2014—Ron Avery “The Mekong River from Vietnam to Myanmar”
January 10, 2015—Don Lancaster “Gila Valley Day Hikes”
February 21, 2015—Dan Best “The Morenci Railway”
March 14, 2015—Kevin Hansen “Rattlesnakes”
April 11, 2015—Clay James “Calling All Critter Callers”

“SATURDAY SCIENCE CAMPS” ARE BACK!

Saturday February 21, 2015

Middle School

Saturday April 11, 2015

High School

Please contact Paul Anger at 928-428-6260 for more information about these popular science camps for kids!

The **EAC Discovery Park Campus** is available to help you have a fun, safe and educational science field trip, and best of all....***there's no cost!***

The EAC Discovery Park Campus is available by reservation for field trips on
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(The usual time frame for a field trip is about 2-3 hours.) Scheduling a field trip is easy!

Just call or email us with: *preferred date *grade level(s) *number of students *your available
time frames *lessons, either “Habitat” or “Astronomy.”

In addition to these field trips, EAC Discovery Park offers a variety of educational opportunities
and activities that are not found anywhere else!

⇒ Amazing artifacts and photographs from the **Graham County Historical Society**

⇒ An display describing the **Electromagnetic spectrum** and light and energy

⇒ We have our friends **Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, and Albert Einstein** to help us follow
the interesting **“History of Astronomy”**

⇒ We also have the world's largest permanently mounted **Camera Obscura**

⇒ We have the research-grade **20” Tinsley Telescope**

Please feel free to contact Jackie at the EAC Discovery Park Campus at 928-428-6260 or discoverypark@eac.edu

What is the new Arizona STEM Network online platform doing?

- Brings all SFaz's STEM content and connections together
- Connects education and industry
- Provides online STEM resources and tools
- Encourages collaboration and sharing among educators
- Allows SFaz to contact specific groups with targeted content
- Engages users in low-maintenance online environment



The screenshot shows the Arizona STEM Network website. At the top, there are logos for the Arizona STEM Network and the Science Foundation Arizona. Below the logos is a navigation bar with links: Home, Join, About, Profile, Groups, STEM Tools & Resources, Business Advocates, and Help. The main banner features the text "Connecting Education and Industry" and "Learn how you can help impact Arizona's Education Landscape" with a "Learn More" button. Below the banner are three buttons: "Educators", "Business Advocates", and "Tools4Teachers". At the bottom, there is a video player showing a woman speaking, with the title "Arizona STEM Network: Making a Difference in Ed...".

TEACHERS - Find hundreds of vetted resources to integrate STEM into your school and classroom. Connect with other teachers around the state. Learn about best practices and exciting new teaching strategies.

BUSINESSES - Discover how to impact your local school through proven educational programs. Share your expertise with the next generation of workers.

NON-PROFITS and EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDERS - Expand your reach. Share your program expertise with school administrators, teachers, philanthropic partners and businesses.

And so much MORE - Find resources on STEM Clubs and other after school STEM activities. Participate in forums, stay updated on STEM news and events, and join groups focused on different areas in STEM.

stem.sfaz.org

Grant Opportunities for Teachers from the United Way of Graham County

A new grant opportunity for Graham County teachers is now available! Please follow these steps:

1. Visit www.uwgraham.com
2. Click on “How to Apply”
3. Click on the 2014 Grant Funding Guidelines to read about the United Way’s programs and funding priorities.
4. Click on the UWGC-EducationApplication-2014

Please note that applications will be accepted and reviewed every month except December. Complete and eligible applications received by the 1st of the month will be reviewed and a decision will be made and communicated that same month. Please submit your complete application packet to uwgraham@gmail.com.

About the United Way

The United Way of Graham County is an all-volunteer organization that provides grant support to nonprofit organizations in southeastern Arizona. We serve Graham and Greenlee counties, providing funding support for causes in Education, Income and Health.

Our mission: to advance the common good by focusing on quality of life, health and education—the building blocks of a good life.

**Have you written your
grant yet?**



Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Sponsor: The Laura Bush Foundation

Name: Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries

Who: Schools at least 85% of the student body qualifies for Free or Reduced Lunch Program

Cost Share: None

Amount: \$7,000

Deadline: Dec. 15, 2014

Description: Funds are provided solely for books, e-books, or magazines and serials in print, Braille, or audio form. Requests for staffing, shelving, furniture, equipment, software, videos, classroom book sets, or exams are not considered. All grants are made to individual schools rather than to school districts, foundations, or other entities.

Link: <http://www.laurabushfoundation.com/>

Sponsor: National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)

Name: NSTA: Shell Science Lab Challenge

Who: Middle and high school science teachers

Cost Share: None

Amount: See description

Deadline: Dec. 19, 2014

Description: **Recognizes** exemplary approaches to science lab instruction; will showcase the work of teachers who submit innovative, replicable strategies to deliver quality lab experiences to their students utilizing limited school and laboratory resources. Special attention will be given to teachers working with urban and underrepresented groups. One Grand Prize winning school will receive a lab makeover support package valued at \$20,000, five national finalists will each receive a lab makeover support package valued at \$8,500, and 18 district winners will each receive a lab makeover support package valued at \$3,000.

Link: <http://www.nsta.org/shellsciencelab/>

Sponsor: U.S. Soccer Foundation

Name: Safe Places to Play Grants

Who: Schools, communities

Cost Share: None shown **Amount:** See description

Deadline: Letter of Intent due Jan. 31, 2015

Description: Four categories: Synthetic Turf, Lighting, Irrigation, and Sport Court. Multi-sport field projects are eligible for funding, but such fields must be used a majority of the time for soccer. Multi-field projects are also eligible. All Safe Places to Play grants (except for Irrigation) can be awarded for either indoor or outdoor field projects. Safe Places to Play grantees have 12 months from the date of the award announcement to use their funding. Applicants must submit a letter of intent describing basics of the project prior to being approved to submit a full application for funding

Link: <http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org/our-grants/>



Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Sponsor: Major League Baseball and Major League Baseball Players Association

Name: Baseball Tomorrow Fund

Who: Youth programs

Cost Share: None Shown **Amount:** Typically \$50,000-\$100,000

Deadline: Quarterly

Description: To promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball around the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, uniforms, and equipment. Grants are intended to finance a new program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment necessary for youth baseball or softball programs. Supports projects that meet the following evaluation criteria: increase the number of youth participating in baseball and softball programs; improve the quality of youth baseball and softball programs.

Link: http://web.mlbcommunity.org/index.jsp?content=programs&program=baseball_tomorrow_fund

Sponsor: Sodexo Foundation

Name: The Campus Kitchens Project

Who: Any high school, college, university

Cost Share: None

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2015

Description: National non-profit that empowers students leaders to create innovative and sustainable solutions to hunger. Funding is to start a Campus Kitchen chapter in your schools and develop project to rescue and use food that would have gone to waste.

Link: www.campuskitchens.org/grant-opportunities/

Name: Actuarial Foundation: Advancing Student Achievement (ASA) Grant

Who: To benefit grades 4-12

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: Open

Description: Supports math enhancement programs that bridge the gap between classroom and real world mathematics for grades 4-12 students in U.S. public and private schools. Programs eligible for support may include, but are not limited to, clubs, competitions, before and after school programs, classroom extension periods, etc. Funded programs must impact 20 to 25 students and meet a minimum of one time per month.

Link: http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/teachers/what_asa_grant.shtml



Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Freeport-McMoRan Inc. Grants

Mini-Grants for Education Application Window: May 1st –Oct. 1st

Please visit www.freeportinmycommunity.com

Grants in the range of \$100—\$500 a school is eligible to receive up to four mini-grants per year. Additional grant opportunities are available including the STEM Education grant. Graham County received nearly \$500,000 in the recent round of Community Investment Fund grant awards held in August. Thank you Freeport-McMoRan!

Youth and Community Development Grants

Sponsor: Office Depot Foundation

Deadline: Monthly

Amount: \$50-\$3,000

Description: The Foundation provides funding to the following program areas: 1. Giving Children Tools for Success—Supporting activities that give young people tools to succeed in the school and in life through education and inspiration. 2. Building Capacity to Serve Communities—Supporting programs that help non-profit organizations to serve the needs of their communities efficiently and effectively. 3. Disaster Preparedness, Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding....

<http://officedepotfoundation.org>

Kinder Morgan Foundation K-12 Education, Environmental Education, Arts, and Youth Development Grants

Deadline: 10th of every month Amount: \$1,000—\$5,000

"The Kinder Morgan Foundation believes that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, and our mission is to provide them with opportunities to learn and grow. Our goal is to help today's science, math and music students become the engineers, educators and musicians who will support our diverse communities for many years to come."

<http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/>

Win a Lamp-Free Projector

Educators can enter Casio's LampFree Projector Education Grant for a chance to win a Casio Ultra Short Throw projector, worth \$2,000, for their school.

Deadline: December 31, 2014

[Www.casiolampfree.com/educationgrant](http://www.casiolampfree.com/educationgrant)

Professional Development Opportunities/ Grant Funding Alerts

Strengthening Secondary Education

Deadline: Open

Amount: \$100,000—\$200,000

Sponsor: Arthur Vining Davis Foundation

Type: Education

Grants are made for innovative professional development programs that strengthen teachers and their teaching in grades 9-12.

<http://www.avdf.org/FoundationsPrograms/SecondaryEducation.aspx>

KaBOOM! Let's Play Grants

Deadlines: Rolling

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group & KaBOOM! Are excited to offer \$500 Let's Play Completion Grants to qualifying Do-It-Yourself communities to be used toward the improvement of an existing play-ground built using the KaBoom! Community build model and \$750 Let's Play Maintenance Grants to communities who wish to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer and more inviting.

http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants

D-Backs Program Grants

D-Backs program grants are given statewide to non-profit organizations. Funds for these grants are raised throughout the season through team fundraising events, including the annual Evening on the Diamond benefit dinner, Shirts Off Our D-Backs and additional events. All 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Arizona are welcome to apply for funding, however, funding must be serving the people of Arizona. The deadline is open and the amount of grant funding available for projects is \$1,000—\$5,000. For more info:

Daily Point of Light Award

Deadline: Rolling

The power of the individual to spark change and improve the world—that's what the Daily Point of Light Award celebrates. Nominate a local hero for this award. Recognition includes a certificate signed by President George H.W. Bush.

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/recognition>

VEX Robotics

Schools interested in learning more about VEX Robotics and available grants should visit

<http://www.vexrobotics.com>

www.roboticseducation.org www.robotevents.com

Grant Funding Alerts *It's never too early to start working on a grant!*

Name: Annenberg Foundation

Who: Areas of arts, culture and humanities, civic and community, environment, education, and human health and wellness

Amount: \$10,000 - \$100,000

Deadline: Rolling

Link: <http://www.annenbergfoundation.org/grantmaking/how-to-apply>

Name: Arthur Vining Davis Foundations **Who:** Projects for improving teaching

Amount: \$100,000-\$200,000

Deadline: Rolling

Description: Projects may cover a wide range of initiatives intended to improve teaching. For example, projects might be designed to improve professional development for in-service and pre-service teachers, strengthen teaching skills, support practical research in teacher and high school education, or encourage innovative use of technology and new techniques for presentation of classroom materials in high schools

Link: www.avdf.org

Name: Ceres Foundation Grants

Who: For benefit of disadvantaged youth and vulnerable families

Amount: Up to \$240,000

Deadline: Rolling

Description: To expand opportunities for disadvantaged youth and vulnerable families to develop and make full use of their potential, so that they will be able to earn decent livings, enjoy healthy relationships, pursue their ambitions, and participate in their communities.

Link: <http://foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/ceres/>

Name: JP Morgan Chase Grants

Who: Open for non-profit organizations

Amount: Varies

Deadline: Rolling

Description: Create Pathways to Opportunity - a holistic approach to ensure that individuals have access to the knowledge, skills, resources, and capital they need to secure their futures and compete in the global economy.

Link: <http://www.jpmorganchase.com/corporate/Corporate-Responsibility/grant-programs.htm>

Grant Funding Alerts *It's never too early to start working on a grant!*

Youth Program Grants

Deadline: Open

Sponsor: The Entertainment Software Association Foundation

Amount: Varies

Type: Social & Economic, Arts & Culture

The ESA Foundation is dedicated to supporting positive programs and opportunities that make a difference in the lives of America's youth.

<http://www.esafoundation.org/application.asp>

KaBOOM! Spruce Project Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Are you itching to serve? Organize your friends, clean up a playground, and you can become eligible for \$750, courtesy of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The grant is part of the Let's Play initiative to get kids and families active.

<http://grants.kaboom.org>

Name: Little Kids Rock Music Professional Development & Equipment Program

Who: Public school districts

Amount: Varies

Deadline: Rolling

Description: Teachers receive training & donation of curricula, instruments and other resources so that they can launch Modern Band music programming for students at their schools. Partners with public school districts in some of the nation's most economically disadvantaged communities with the goal of ensuring that all students (K-12) have access to music education and its many benefits. Teachers apply to be trained to use our innovative and transformational methodology. After their training is complete, teachers receive a donation of curricula, instruments and other resources so that they can launch Modern Band music programming for students at their schools

Link: <http://www.littlekidsrock.org/the-program/how-it-works/>

Name: Toyota USA Foundation: STEM Grants

Who: Schools, organizations to improve STEM education

Amount: \$200,000

Deadline: Rolling

Description: To improve k-12 education by supporting innovative programs in the areas of math, science, and environmental science.

Link: <http://toyota.com/about/philanthropy/guidelines/index.html>

Grant Funding Alerts *It's never too early to start working on a grant!*

Sponsor: Aurand Harris Grant & Fellowship

Name: All Children's Theatre Foundation Grants

Who: Small to Mid-sized not-for-profit **OR** Professional theatre artist (including teachers)
OR a collaboration of these

Cost Share: None

Amount: Up to \$5,000

Deadline: Request to submit Jan. 15, 2015; full application Apr. 9, 2015

Description: Looking for best and most creative idea that will enhance the field of theatre with the goal of promoting the theatre experience to children in all type of communities

Link: www.childrenstheatrefoundation.org/page3/page14/index.html

Sponsor: National Education Foundation

Name: Teacher Training Grants

Who: Any PreK-12 teacher or teacher assistant

Cost Share: \$15

Amount: \$400 (for tuition to online courses and instructional videos)

Deadline: Access 24/7 until Jan. 31, 2015 all 635 courses and videos

Description: To help teachers enhance teaching, classroom management and instructional technology skills as well as personal and professional skills; 24/7 unlimited access to courses and videos in Teaching Skills/Classroom Management/Soft Skills/Personal Development/Professional Development/Instructional Technology/Business/Desktop/IT

Link: www.Cyberlearning.org/grants-funding/teacher-grant

Sponsor: U.S. General Services Administration

Name: Computers for Learning

Who: Schools and educational nonprofits

Amount: based on need **Cost Share:** None **Deadline:** rolling

Description: Computers for Learning (CFL) program allows schools and educational nonprofits to view and select computer equipment that federal agencies have reported as excess. The CFL program includes making modern computer technology an integral part of every classroom, connecting classrooms to the national infrastructure, providing teachers with the professional development they need to use new technologies effectively, and encouraging the use of innovative educational software.

Link: http://computersforlearning.gov/htm/hp_aboutprogram.htm

Whew—you are finally at the end of this newsletter!

Sumdog Contests are back!

Sumdog math contests have started again! The contests run Friday through the next Thursday. Graham and Greenlee teachers and students can pencil in the following dates for this school year:

Special Holiday contest! - December 12th The prize for the winning class is an iPad and every student who plays in the Holiday Contest will receive festive outfits for their on-screen avatar: Santa, snowman and reindeer!

http://www.sumdog.com/en/holiday_contest

January 30, 2015 April 24, 2015

For information on Sumdog please visit <http://www.sumdog.com>

Toshiba America Foundation for Grades 6-12

Wanted: Classroom Innovators! Toshiba America Foundation accepts applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students.

6-12 Grant requests for \$5,000 or less are accepted on a rolling basis, through the calendar year

6-12 Grant requests for \$5,000 or more are accepted and reviewed twice a year—August 1st and February 1st of each year.

<http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>

Volunteer Opportunities at Discovery Park

Every Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the Greenhouse at Discovery Park will be open for people to come in, say “hi” and volunteer a bit of their time helping to grow native plants for various restoration projects in our area. This is also a great time to ask questions about the status of the Gila River Restoration Project headed by the Gila Watershed Partnership.

For more information or alternate hours, contact:

Justin Johnson, Plant Propagation Coordinator, Gila Watershed Partnership

605-270-3201 or jjohnson.gwp@gmail.com

Stress Busters

(from *Lists to Live By*, compiled by Alice Gray, Steve Stephens & John Van Diest)

1. **Develop Order** Tidy up. Put things away. Toss clutter. You can restore a sense of calm to a room with a thirty-minute “sort and dump.”
2. **Divert Your Focus** Diversions give the mind a break from problem solving and burden bearing. It is impossible to be consumed with worry when something else is captivating your interest.
3. **Diffuse** Push the pressures out of your body through twenty minutes of aerobic exercise.
4. **Debrief** Talk out your tension with a safe and trusted friend.
5. **Diversify** Change channels in your brain. Problem solving is more effective when the mind frequently rests from a problem rather than obsessing on it continuously.